

Report on Blended and Remote Learning

Senate Bill 229



MAY 13, 2022

Introduction

[Senate Bill 229](#) set a deadline of April 30, 2022, for city, local, exempted village and joint vocational school districts; community schools established under Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3314; STEM schools established under ORC 3326; and chartered nonpublic schools to submit a blended learning declaration to the Ohio Department of Education if they wanted to use blended learning as an instructional model for students during the 2021-2022 school year. [Ohio Revised Code Section 3301.079](#) defines "blended learning" as the delivery of instruction in a combination of time primarily in a supervised physical location away from home and online delivery whereby the student has some element of control over time, place, path or pace of learning and includes noncomputer-based learning opportunities.

State law also allowed a school district board of education, community school governing authority with approval of the school's sponsor, STEM school governing authority, or chartered nonpublic school governing authority to adopt a resolution no later than Dec. 15, 2021, to continue providing instruction using the school's or district's remote learning plan submitted under Section 16 of House Bill 164 of the 133rd General Assembly for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year. Schools were authorized to provide this instruction only to those students whose parents or guardians submitted a written request to the principal of the school building to which the student is assigned to specifically request the option.

Districts and schools that chose to submit blended learning declarations or adopt resolutions to continue providing instruction under their remote learning plans were asked to submit data to the Department, including the following:

- Total number of students engaged in blended learning during the 2021-2022 school year by grade level;
- Total number of students with disabilities engaged in blended learning during the 2021-2022 school year;
- Number of students participating in blended learning and the duration of such participation by quarter;
- Total number of students engaged in remote learning by grade level;
- Total number of students with disabilities engaged in remote learning.

Highlights

Many districts and schools moved proactively to submit a blended learning declaration or adopt a resolution to continue to provide instruction under their remote learning plan to ensure they could continue to serve students if further building closures were needed.

- Most entities did not need to close and reported no students participating either in blended or remote learning in the current school year.
- Students with disabilities were not disproportionately served with blended or remote learning.
- Where entities used blended or remote learning, secondary school students were more likely to be served using one of the methods than students in the elementary school grades.
- While the largest number of students participated in blended learning in the first quarter of 2022, their time participating was the shortest duration of the whole year.

Blended Learning

A total of 611 schools and districts submitted a blended learning declaration for the 2021-2022 school year. The breakdown by organization type includes:

- 461 City, Exempted Village or Local School Districts
- 83 Community Schools¹
- 36 Joint Vocational School Districts
- 17 Non-Public Schools
- 7 Departments of Developmental Disabilities
- 5 STEM Schools
- 2 State Supported Organizations

Remote Learning

A total of 92 schools and districts adopted resolutions to continue providing instruction using the school's or district's remote learning plan. The breakdown by organization type includes:

- 78 Community Schools
- 10 City, Exempted Village or Local School Districts
- 2 Nonpublic Schools
- 2 State Supported Organizations

Reporting Process

The Management Council of the Ohio Educational Computer Network assisted in collecting the data required for this report. The data were collected April 1 - 29, 2022. Each district superintendent or school principal/director was asked to complete the data form in a secure website that recorded the identity of the individual who submitted the data. Districts had until April 30, 2022, to submit blended learning declarations. Though schools and districts received the data collection request regardless of whether they already had submitted declarations, the instructions confirmed they were required to complete the data collection only if they actually submitted declarations or were planning to submit declarations before the deadline.

A total of 872 districts and schools responded to the data collection. The breakdown by organization type includes:

- 106 Community Schools
- 41 Joint Vocational School Districts
- 289 Nonpublic Schools
- 430 City, Exempted Village or Local School Districts
- 6 STEM Schools

It is important to note that four of the state's Catholic dioceses submitted blended learning declarations on behalf of all the schools under their purview. Individual school personnel responded to the request for data, so there is not a one-to-one correlation on the number of blended learning declarations filed and the data collected. Moreover, it appears that some districts and schools reported students engaged in blended or remote learning without notifying the Department of their use of the model.

¹ Since April 1, 2022, the Department has received 19 declarations from community schools to cease blending learning and indicating they did not implement blended learning during the 2021-2022 school year.

Data Analysis – Remote and Blended Learning by Grade Level

Of the 872 respondents, 620 confirmed they did not serve students with remote learning. The remaining 252 districts and schools reported 62,232 students participating in instruction using a district's or school's remote learning plan. Of those, 9,980 were students with disabilities.

Similarly, 650 of the 872 respondents confirmed they did not serve any students with blended learning in the 2021-2022 school year. The remaining 222 districts and schools reported having a total of 201,343 students participating in instruction using the district's or school's blended learning declaration. Of those, 31,192 were students with disabilities.

Students in high school grades participated in both remote and blended learning in greater numbers than students in elementary or middle school. More than 44% of students participating in remote learning were in grade 9 or higher. Almost 39% of students participating in blended learning were in those same grades.

Students in kindergarten through grade 3 participated in these instructional models the least. A little more than 21% of students who participated in remote learning were in the primary grades, while just under 24% of the students participating in blended learning were in those grades.

The table below reports the number of students statewide participating in remote and blended learning at some point during the 2021-2022 school year.

Grade Level	Students Participating in Remote Learning	Students Participating in Blended Learning
Kindergarten	3,223	12,382
Grade 1	3,100	11,373
Grade 2	3,440	11,820
Grade 3	3,521	12,242
Grade 4	3,438	12,158
Grade 5	3,689	12,437
Grade 6	4,468	15,931
Grade 7	4,776	17,512
Grade 8	4,962	17,640
Grade 9	6,294	20,993
Grade 10	6,193	17,753
Grade 11	7,644	19,955
Grade 12	7,484	19,147
TOTAL	62,232	201,343

Data Analysis – Students with Disabilities

Of the students who participated in remote or blended learning, 16% of the students whose education included at least some remote learning were students with disabilities. Of the students who participated in blended learning, 15.4% of the students had a disability.

Over the last five school years, the statewide percentage of students with disabilities ranged from 15.6% to 16%, which means students were served with remote or blended learning at the same percentage as their representation in the education population.

Learning Model	Number of Students with Disabilities Participating
Remote Learning	9,980
Blended Learning	31,192

Data Analysis – Blended Learning by Quarter

Districts and schools were required to report the number of students participating in blended learning by quarter, and the duration of time spent using the educational delivery model.

Some districts and schools offered students blended learning as a year-long educational delivery model and students participated weekly in a combination of time primarily in a supervised physical location away from home and online delivery whereby the student has some element of control over time, place, path, or pace of learning and includes noncomputer-based learning opportunities. Other districts and schools only moved students to the model as a short-term way to serve them if they had to quarantine due to COVID-19 or if their buildings were closed because of illness, inclement weather or some other calamity that previously would cause a district or school to lose educational time.

The greatest number of students participated in blended learning in Quarter 3, but they participated for the shortest average duration. Because of the timing of this report, Quarter 4 included only partial data, covering just the month of April.

Quarter	Number of Students Participating in Blended Learning	Average Number of Days Students Participated in Blended Learning
Quarter 1 (July 1, 2021 – September 30, 2021)	48,265	14.9 Days
Quarter 2 (October 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021)	59,841	17.1 Days
Quarter 3 (January 1, 2022 – March 31, 2022)	189,165	10.2 Days
Quarter 4 (April 1, 2022 – April 30, 2022)*	44,276	19.2 Days

* Note that because of the timing of this report, Quarter 4 data only includes days in April 2022.

Data Analysis – Remote Learning – Number of Students Served

Of those responding to the data collection, 71% of the districts and schools indicated they did not use remote learning plans to serve students in the 2021-2022 school year. Of those that did serve students with remote learning plans, the number of students served varied greatly. While 25 districts each reported serving just a single student with remote learning this year, 21 districts reported serving at least 1,000 students. All other districts fell somewhere in between these numbers. Remote learning was intended to be provided only upon parental request for the 2021-2022 school year, which may explain some of the variations in participation among districts and schools.

The following table illustrates the frequency of remote learners reported by individual districts.

Number of Students Served with Remote Learning	Number of Schools/Districts
No Students	620
Between 1 and 9 Students	87
Between 10 and 19 Students	32
Between 20 and 29 Students	19
Between 30 and 39 Students	12
Between 40 and 49 Students	8
Between 50 and 59 Students	9
Between 60 and 69 Students	5
Between 70 and 79 Students	6
Between 80 and 89 Students	2
Between 90 and 99 Students	7
Between 100 and 499 Students	31
Between 500 and 999 Students	13
1000 or More Students	21

The average number of students served with remote learning was 247. Note that this statistic was calculated by averaging the data from just the 252 districts and schools that served at least one student with remote learning.

Data Analysis – Remote Learning – Number of Students with Disabilities Served

Similar statistics can be calculated for students with disabilities. A total of 687 or 78.8% of schools and districts reported not serving any students with disabilities with remote learning. In those districts and schools that reported serving students with disabilities with remote learning plans, the number of students served varied greatly.

Thirty districts reported using their remote learning plans to serve just a single student with a disability and three districts reported serving over 500 students with disabilities with remote learning this year. All other districts fell somewhere in between these numbers.

Number of Students with Disabilities Served with Remote Learning	Number of Schools/Districts
No Students with Disabilities Served	687
Between 1 and 9 Students with Disabilities Served	108
Between 10 and 19 Students with Disabilities Served	23
Between 20 and 29 Students with Disabilities Served	6
Between 30 and 39 Students with Disabilities Served	5
Between 40 and 49 Students with Disabilities Served	4
Between 50 and 99 Students with Disabilities Served	13
Between 100 and 249 Students with Disabilities Served	14
Between 250 and 499 Students with Disabilities Served	9
500 or more Students with Disabilities Served	3

The average number of students with disabilities served with remote learning was 54. Note that this statistic was calculated by averaging the data from just the 185 districts and schools that served at least one student with a disability with remote learning.

Data Analysis – Blended Learning – Number of Students Served

The data were similar for blended learning. Almost 75% of the districts and schools that responded to the data collection indicated they did not use a blended learning declaration to serve any students in the 2021-2022 school year. In those districts and schools that did serve students with blended learning, the number of students served varied greatly, with 25 districts reporting just a single student served with blended learning this school year and five districts reporting at least 5,000 students served. All other districts reported totals somewhere between these numbers.

Number of Students Served with Blended Learning	Number of Schools/Districts
No Students Served	650
Between 1 and 24 Students Served	75
Between 25 and 49 Students Served	22
Between 50 and 74 Students Served	16
Between 75 and 99 Students Served	14
Between 100 and 499 Students Served	40
Between 500 and 999 Students Served	17
Between 1000 and 2499 Students Served	21
Between 2500 and 4999 Students Served	12
5000 or More Students Served	5

The average number of students served with blended learning was 907. Note that this statistic was calculated by averaging the data from just the 222 districts and schools that served at least one student with blended learning.

Data Analysis – Blended Learning – Number of Students with Disabilities Served

Similar statistics can be calculated for the number of students with disabilities served with blended learning. A total of 692 districts and schools reported not serving any students with disabilities with blended learning. In those districts and schools that did serve students with disabilities, the number of students with disabilities served varied greatly. Thirty-one districts reported using their blended learning declarations to serve just a single student with a disability this year.

Thirteen districts reported serving at least 500 students with disabilities with blended learning this year. All other districts fell somewhere in between these numbers.

Number of Students with Disabilities Served with Blended Learning	Number of Schools/Districts
No Students with Disabilities Served	692
Between 1 and 9 Students with Disabilities Served	79
Between 10 and 19 Students with Disabilities Served	20
Between 20 and 29 Students with Disabilities Served	9
Between 30 and 39 Students with Disabilities Served	6
Between 40 and 49 Students with Disabilities Served	5
Between 50 and 99 Students with Disabilities Served	9
Between 100 and 249 Students with Disabilities Served	21
Between 250 and 499 Students with Disabilities Served	18
500 or more Students with Disabilities Served	13

The average number of students with disabilities served with blended learning was 173. Note that this statistic was calculated by averaging the data from just the 180 districts and schools that served at least one student with a disability with blended learning.